

Drugged and Drunk Driving Prevention Month

Presented by Councilmember Marni von Wilpert

December 2021

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of San Diego, California recognizes the importance of keeping our community's neighborhoods and streets safe; **and**

WHEREAS, December is National Impaired Driving Prevention month to highlight steps we can take to improve safety on our streets and raise awareness of the preventable dangers of distracted driving, drugged driving, and drunk driving; **and**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration launched an initiative to combat drug-impaired driving in 2018 amidst a national opioid epidemic; **and**

WHEREAS, with states legalizing marijuana, the NHTSA has made the drug-impaired-driving problem a top priority to ensure U.S. roads, communities and families are safe from impaired drivers and to reduce deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes; **and**

WHEREAS, Research studies have shown negative effects of marijuana on drivers, including an increase in lane weaving, poor reaction time, and altered attention to the road, and that driving under the influence of drugs (DUID) is against the law in all 50 states; **and**

WHEREAS, the California Vehicle Code states that it is illegal to operate a motor vehicle under the influence of any substance, lawfully possessed or not, if the substance used causes physical or mental impairment that makes a person unable to drive safely; **and**

WHEREAS, San Diego County prosecutors and law enforcement officials reported that 35 people have died in DUI crashes as of October 2021, making it the worst year in San Diego County in more than two decades; **and**

WHEREAS, MHS North Inland Substance Use Prevention program, its Youth Advocacy Coalition, and the County of San Diego Marijuana Prevention Initiative coordinator organized annual "Put Drugged Driving on Your Radar" media events and Drugged Driving Prevention rallies in the Cities of San Diego, San Marcos, Poway, Escondido, and unincorporated towns of Fallbrook, Ramona, and Valley Center since 2015, and continues to raise awareness about "Drugged Driving" and influence policies to keep our communities safe; **and**

WHEREAS, the MHS North Inland Substance Use Prevention program and its Youth Advocacy Coalition want to increase awareness and urge all San Diego residents and visitors to "Put Drugged Driving on Your Radar," refrain from driving a vehicle under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, or other drugs, and call 9-1-1 to report anyone suspected of "Drugged Driving;" **NOW, THEREFORE,**

Be It Proclaimed, by the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the people of San Diego, does hereby proclaim the month of **December 2021** to be "**Drugged and Drunk Driving Prevention Month**" in the City of San Diego.